

DISCOVERIES

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FOUNDATION**
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SINCE 1995

Help us fight canine disease through the **NEW 2017** Champions for Canine Health Calendar. (see back cover for details)



Dr. Diane Brown Appointed as Chief Executive Officer of CHF

The AKC Canine Health Foundation (CHF) announced in February that Dr. Diane Brown, DVM, PhD, DACVP, was appointed as chief executive officer (CEO) for the Foundation. Dr. Brown joined CHF in August 2015 as chief scientific officer. As CEO, Dr. Brown will lead the Foundation, overseeing operations and scientific programs from its Raleigh, NC, headquarters.



Dr. Diane Brown & Lily

“We are thrilled to elevate Dr. Brown to the CEO position. She has excelled as chief scientific officer, and we are confident that with her stellar academic background and experience in the animal health nonprofit sector, she will lead CHF to new heights,” said Dr. Duane Butherus, immediate past chairman of the CHF Board.

“The body of scientific work funded by CHF and its dedicated donors

over the past 20 years has laid an impressive foundation from which we will continue to build, grow and innovate to solve the unmet medical needs of all dogs,” said Dr. Brown. “This is an exciting opportunity to co-join my experiences in clinical veterinary and comparative medicine and biomedical research in a focused effort to improve their lives. I’m looking forward to these new opportunities and challenges involved.”

Dr. Brown is a board-certified veterinary clinical pathologist who holds a DVM and PhD in pathology from Colorado State University’s College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences. As an independent investigator and comparative pathologist, Dr. Brown has served as a member of the faculty at Harvard Medical School, as director of the Comparative Clinical Pathology Laboratory at Massachusetts General Hospital and as consulting pathologist at the University of Colorado. She previously served as the chief scientific officer for Morris Animal

Foundation, and currently holds an affiliate faculty position in the department of molecular and comparative pathobiology at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. She has held prior affiliate faculty appointments in the veterinary schools at Tufts Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine, Colorado State University and Purdue University.

Dr. Brown also brings experience in the corporate world, having served as senior pathologist at Lilly Research Laboratories for Eli Lilly and Company, and in small animal veterinary practice for four years prior to beginning her residency and PhD. She has also been a board member and volunteer veterinarian for service dogs. Dr. Brown brings her office mate Lily, an English Setter, to her new position. 🐾



CHF Launches Matched-funding Initiative to Fight Tick-Borne Diseases in Dogs

CHF has launched an exciting new tick-borne disease initiative to educate dog owners, and find better diagnostics, preventatives and therapeutics for dogs.

Ticks and the diseases they transmit can be found in all 50 states. Many of the diseases ticks transmit through a direct bite can impact not only dogs, but their human companions as well. The initiative will raise funds to award much-needed research grants for new and innovative approaches to understand and treat tick-borne diseases. Additionally, free educational resources about tick prevalence and tick-borne diseases are available to dog owners at akcchf.org/ticks.

“Tick-borne diseases are increasingly prevalent in our dogs...”

As an added incentive, all donations and Donor Advised Funds disbursements to the CHF tick-borne disease initiative during 2016 will be generously matched dollar-for-dollar by the American Kennel Club (AKC), up to \$250,000.

“Tick-borne diseases are increasingly prevalent in our dogs and the AKC is pleased to support the work of CHF by matching all donations made to this initiative,” said Dr. Charles Garvin, AKC Board of Directors and chairman of the CHF Board. “The AKC is proud of our commitment to



Tick Talk

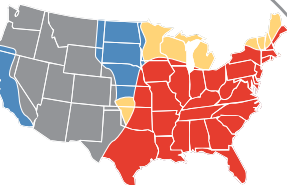
Tick-borne diseases are found in all

50
states



Tick-borne diseases:
A growing threat to ALL dogs and their people
Disease can be transmitted within 3-6 hours of a tick bite

Tick Prevalence



- Blue: Brown Dog Tick
- Yellow: Brown Dog Tick & American Dog Tick
- Yellow: Brown Dog Tick, American Dog Tick & Deer Tick
- Red: Brown Dog Tick, American Dog Tick, Deer Tick & Lone Star Tick

Source: cdc.gov

the health of dogs, and we are pleased to partner with CHF on an issue that has far-reaching impacts for all dogs and people.”

While most everyone is familiar with Lyme disease, which is transmitted by blacklegged ticks (also called deer ticks) infected with a bacterium called *Borrelia burgdorferi*, other important tick-borne diseases that can cause serious illness in dogs include anaplasmosis, babesiosis, bartonellosis, hepatozoonosis, Rocky Mountain spotted fever and ehrlichiosis.

“Tick-borne diseases often cause serious illness in dogs, ranging from the acute and life-threatening to chronic illnesses that significantly impact a dog’s quality of life. We need an innovative approach to understand these infections and keep our dogs healthy,” said Dr. Diane Brown, CHF CEO. “Our initiative, with the generous match from the AKC, will help raise vital funds to provide better diagnostics, better preventives and better therapeutics for our dogs.”

To learn more about CHF’s tick-borne disease initiative, including the opportunity to double your donation, visit akcCHF.org/ticks. 🐾

dogs have been affected by this cruel disease – the American Boxer Charitable Foundation, the Golden Retriever Foundation and the Portuguese Water Dog Foundation – are taking a unique, collaborative stand against cancer by pledging \$432,000 to support this research effort.

“Thus, an unconventional approach to improve outcomes for hemangiosarcoma patients will involve effective methods for early detection and for disease prevention.”

Dr. Jaime Modiano, VMD, PhD, professor in the College of Veterinary Medicine and the Masonic Cancer Center, University of Minnesota, is leading a team of researchers on this project entitled, “A Novel Approach for Prevention of Canine Hemangiosarcoma,” which will pair two novel technologies consisting of a patented test to detect hemangiosarcoma cells in blood samples and a treatment that attacks the cells that establish and maintain the disease.

According to Dr. Modiano, “Hemangiosarcoma is the cause of death for an estimated one out of every five Golden Retrievers in the United States. Portuguese Water Dogs and Boxers also have an especially high risk for this disease, which is devastating for all dogs.” Dr. Modiano continues, “Hemangiosarcoma is incurable partly because the cancer is detected at a very advanced stage when it is resistant to conventional therapies. Thus, an unconventional approach to improve outcomes for hemangiosarcoma patients will involve effective methods for early detection and for disease prevention.”

“The Golden Retriever Foundation is honored to partner with the American Boxer Charitable Foundation and Portuguese Water Dog Foundation to magnify the effectiveness of all of our donors’ contributions through the power of collaboration, said Collette Jaynes, president of the Golden Retriever Foundation. “We are particularly proud to continue our commitment to making meaningful strides against hemangiosarcoma.”

This project will create tools to guide further development, licensing and deployment of new paired technologies against cancer, specifically hemangiosarcoma, with an ultimate goal for disease prevention in all dogs.

According to Carol Mattingley, Portuguese Water Dog Foundation (PWDF) president, “Our foundation is honored to be included in this collaboration. The PWDF played a role in supporting Dr. Modiano’s 2005 research to develop a diagnostic test to detect hemangiosarcoma, and we are

(continued on page 4)

May is Pet Cancer Awareness Month! \$432,000 Collaborative Grant Awarded to Fight Cancer in Dogs

The AKC Canine Health Foundation (CHF) recently announced the funding of an exciting grant that aims to better understand and prevent hemangiosarcoma, an aggressive form of cancer in dogs. Three groups whose

happy and proud to help take this research to the next level.”

The work on this research project began immediately. “We are proud to be able to participate in this unprecedented collaboration. The American Boxer Charitable Foundation (ABCF) has played a role in supporting cancer grants for the last 20 years,” said Joyce Baker Brown, treasurer of the ABCF. “We thank our generous donors to the ABCF and the Georgia Buchla fund for their help with our fundraising endeavor.”

CHF supports the funding of this effort and will oversee administration of funds and scientific progress. “This novel approach to a particularly aggressive form of cancer in dogs has the potential to eventually change the landscape and improve outcomes for all dogs diagnosed with this terrible disease,” said Dr. Diane Brown, CHF CEO. “The collaboration between these three breed club foundations and their dedication to canine health has really driven this project forward – together they are making a significant difference for all dogs.”

Learn more about the free canine cancer educational opportunities and the other important canine cancer research CHF is funding, thanks to your support, at akcchf.org/caninecancer. 🐾



CHF Awards Nearly \$1.5 Million to Innovative Research Projects to Improve the Health of Dogs

In 2015, the AKC Canine Health Foundation (CHF) awarded 30 grants to researchers studying canine disease. These grants, totaling nearly \$1.5 million, will continue to build on CHF-funded advances in veterinary medicine and biomedical science, impacting both canine and human health.

“The projects funded are a combination of innovative science and technology, and studies to address the immediate and practical medical needs of all dogs,” according to Dr. Diane Brown, CHF CEO. “Research ranges from heritable disease, reproductive health, cancer and infectious disease, includes projects to understand the needs and health of working dog populations, and all emphasize better health for dogs and their people.”

CHF administers annual health polls to provide real-time data on the concerns of dog owners and on unmet areas of need in veterinary medicine. Using this information, projects are chosen to build on the depth and breadth of CHF’s 20-year history of health research for dogs. Each grant awarded has specific aims to fill critical knowledge gaps in veterinary medicine, leading to better care options for both the common and the complex health issues of dogs.

“The projects funded are a combination of innovative science and technology, and studies to address the immediate and practical medical needs of all dogs..”

True to CHF’s mission, several of the newly awarded grants have a One Health emphasis, where outcomes of the research project have the potential to benefit human as well as canine health. One such example is the study of dogs with respiratory and skin diseases that live in the homes of children with asthma. Findings from this study will help unlock the complexities of these health conditions in both species. (Read more about this grant on page 7.)

Funding for CHF grants comes from a number of sources, including corporations, dog clubs and individuals like you who are committed to canine health research. Please consider making a donation to support healthy dogs by visiting akcchf.org/donate.

The complete portfolio of new grants can be accessed at akcchf.org/2015-2016researchportfolio, and it can also be downloaded in PDF format. Or view and search all active and past grants in CHF’s full grant portfolio: akcchf.org/researchportfolio. 🐾



Three Promising Researchers Named 2016 AKC Canine Health Foundation Clinician-Scientist Fellows

In an ongoing effort to foster the next generation of veterinary clinician-scientists, the 2016 AKC Canine Health Foundation Clinician-Scientist Fellowships have been awarded to the following individuals:



Vincent Balanza, VMD, is a veterinary oncology resident at Cornell University's College of Veterinary Medicine. Dr. Balanza will be working under the mentorship of Dr. Angela McCleary-Wheeler on "The Role of Canonical Hedgehog Signaling in Canine Osteosarcoma."

Shirley Chu, DVM, of the University of Missouri College Of Veterinary Medicine, is a veterinary oncology resident and graduate student pursuing her PhD. Dr. Jeffrey Bryan serves as Dr. Chu's mentor for her project on "Examination of the Methylome of Golden Retriever B-cell Lymphoma."



Emily Rout, DVM, is a clinical pathology resident and graduate student pursuing her PhD in the laboratory of Dr. Anne Avery at the College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences at Colorado State University. She is investigating variable heavy chain polymorphisms in canine chronic lymphocytic leukemia, having recently been recognized for her work on "Preferential Usage of a Single Immunoglobulin Heavy Chain Variable Gene in Boxers With Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia."

“ Each fellowship includes \$10,000 for research and \$2,000 for presentation of research results at a national scientific meeting.”

According to Dr. Diane Brown, CHF CEO, "The Fellows were selected from a highly competitive field of candidates, and fellowships are awarded to a resident/graduate student who has shown promise and enthusiasm for pursuing a career in canine health research."

Additional considerations for selection of awardees include conducting research in line with CHF's mission and conducting research that will abide by the policies of CHF's Humane Animal Use Policy. Preference is given to residents at institutions that have demonstrated progress and success with current and prior CHF funding.

Each fellowship includes \$10,000 for research and \$2,000 for presentation of research results at a national scientific meeting.

Established in 2013, the AKC Canine Health Foundation Clinician-Scientist Fellowship Program seeks to

encourage and support the next generation of canine health researchers in order to sustain future advancements in canine and human health. Visit akcchf.org/fellows to learn more about the 2016 fellows and their canine health research projects. 🐾



Celebrating 20 Years of Canine Health Milestones at Canines & Cocktails!

The AKC Canine Health Foundation (CHF) celebrated 20 years of canine health research milestones at the 5th annual Canines & Cocktails event on December 10, 2015, at the Rosen Centre Hotel in Orlando, Florida.

As part of the evening's festivities, The Labrador Retriever Club, Inc., was honored with the 2015 President's Award recognizing the club's exceptional contributions for advancing canine health. Since 1997, the club has contributed over \$331,000 to support canine health research.



According to Dr. Diane Brown, CHF CEO, "The Labrador Retriever Club, Inc., truly exemplifies the spirit of giving for the benefit of canine health. Their generosity and dedicated efforts to advance quality health research in partnership with CHF is making a difference for the world's beloved Labrador Retrievers and all dogs."

CHF also recognized the 2015 Distinguished Research Partners for their ongoing commitment to funding canine health research. Together, the 2015 Distinguished Research Partners have donated nearly one million dollars to benefit not only their breed, but the health of all dogs. They include:

(continued on page 6)

- American German Shepherd Dog Charitable Foundation
- Dalmatian Club of America Foundation
- Flat-Coated Retriever Foundation
- Rottweiler Health Foundation

CHF is grateful to each of these organizations for supporting canine health research that helps all dogs live longer, healthier lives. 🐾



CHF-Funded Study of 9/11 Search and Rescue Dogs Enters its 15th Year

Since October 2011, Dr. Cindy Otto, DVM, PhD, DACVECC, DACVSMR, CCRT, of the University of Pennsylvania and founder of the Penn Vet Working Dog Center, has been funded by the AKC Canine Health Foundation (CHF) to monitor the health and well-being of search and rescue dogs deployed following the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. The long-term study, Grant 961: “Medical Surveillance of Dogs Deployed to the World Trade Center and the Pentagon,” has followed 95 search and rescue dogs deployed at the World Trade Center, the Staten Island Landfill and the Pentagon, and 55 non-deployed control search and rescue dogs.

According to Dr. Otto, this is the first longitudinal study ever to monitor search and rescue dogs. “The ability to follow these dogs and document any health or behavioral effects of their heroic service is invaluable. The foresight of the AKC Canine Health Foundation is unparalleled. The dogs on average have lived long and happy lives, a tribute to the relationship with their handlers, and the mental and physical activity that accompanied their careers in search and rescue,” said Dr. Otto.

Through annual examinations that include blood tests and chest radiographs, Dr. Otto has monitored the health of the deployed dogs compared to control dogs to determine if they have a higher incidence of long-term medical and/or behavioral problems. The study has also documented the cause of death in the deployed and control group dogs, and aims to determine if deployment contributes to any long-term health issues.

In the fall of 1999, Denise Corliss and her 8-week-old Golden Retriever, Bretagne, began training to become a certified search and rescue team. In 2000, Corliss and Bretagne learned they had qualified as members of Texas Task Force 1. Their first deployment was the World Trade Center site following the 9/11 terrorist attacks. “After

the attacks so many people wanted to do something. I was honored that Bretagne and I were able to respond. It was a privilege to help,” said Corliss.

According to Corliss, Bretagne, now 16 years old, is still very active, alert and continues to serve her community. “After her career as a search dog, Bretagne embarked on a new role as a reading therapy dog at a local elementary school. She also stays busy with daily walks, swimming, and playing search games. She is a happy Golden who still brings lots of love and joy to those around her,” said Corliss.



Bretagne and Denise Corliss

When the study first began, Dr. Otto and her team rigorously monitored the respiratory conditions of the deployed dogs. While there have been well-documented studies of the chronic respiratory conditions that have plagued human responders, their canine companions, based on the ongoing monitoring supported through the CHF grant, have shown minimal respiratory problems. In fact, in preliminary analyses, there have been no systemic conditions that have been identified in the deployed search and rescue dogs that did not also occur in control search and rescue dogs.

“The dogs’ respiratory systems seem to have been able to cope with this horrible insult from the poor air quality, toxins, and pollutants to which they were exposed, and with no respiratory protection during the work that they did,” said Dr. Otto. “All of our evidence to date points to the fact that these dogs were incredibly resilient.”

Donor Advised Fund Research Sponsors (8/27/15 - 3/1/16)

We are grateful to these organizations for utilizing their donor advised funds and Purina Parent Club Partnership program contributions to support important canine health research.

American Brittany Club
American Shih Tzu Club, Inc.
American Spaniel Club Foundation
Border Terrier Club of America
Bulldog Club of America Charitable Health Fund, Inc.
Cardigan Welsh Corgi Club of America
Dandie Dinmont Terrier Club of America, Inc.
English Cocker Spaniel Club of America
French Bulldog Club of America
French Bulldog Rescue League
German Shorthaired Pointer Club of America, Inc.
German Wirehaired Pointer Club of America
Gordon Setter Club of America, Inc.
Mr. Jeffrey Pepper
Newfoundland Club of America Charitable Trust
Pembroke Welsh Corgi Club of America
Pharaoh Hound Club of America
Poodle Club of America Foundation
Pug Dog Club of America, Inc.
Sally Z. Monroe, MD Fund
Saluki Health Research, Inc.
Samoyed Club of America Education & Research Foundation
Siberian Husky Club of America, Inc.
The Labrador Retriever Club, Inc.
Welsh Springer Spaniel Club of America

In addition to utilizing data from the study to better understand respiratory disease, which has potential impacts for understanding and treating respiratory issues in both dogs and humans, long-term data from the study are being used to determine the health impact of deployed search and rescue dogs. According to Dr. Otto, preliminary findings have not shown a significant difference in incidence of cancer or in the median age at death between the deployed dogs and control dogs. Insights from this long-term medical surveillance study provide vital information to handlers, trainers and veterinary professionals on the health and well-being of dogs deployed on search and rescue missions.

“These incredible dogs represent the attributes we find so remarkable and treasure in all dogs – resilience, dedication and an incredible giving spirit. The dogs in this study brought a nation hope in the face of terrible tragedy, and through this study have given far beyond their working years. CHF is particularly proud to have supported the entire 14-year course of this study, providing a tangible way for the Foundation and its

supporters to truly honor these and other working dogs,” said Dr. Diane Brown, CHF CEO.

To read more about this study and these exceptional dogs, visit akcchf.org/september11study. 🐾



Studying the Health of Urban Dogs in Homes of Children with Asthma

Dr. Meghan F. Davis, DVM, MPH, PhD, of Johns Hopkins University, has been awarded an innovative research grant, which aims to better understand the occurrence of skin and respiratory diseases in inner-city dogs living in the homes of children with asthma. The \$158,367 grant is for a project entitled “The City Dog Study: Dermatologic and Respiratory Disease among Inner-City Dogs Living in the Homes of Children With Asthma.”

Dr. Davis and her team are enrolling 100 dogs, collecting samples and following their health during home visits over time. From these data, the investigators will study the bacterial communities on the dogs’ skin, evaluate how these change with time, and whether the changes are associated with skin or respiratory diseases in the dogs.

Additionally, the team will look at how the children and the dogs share bacteria (microbiome) and whether there are human health benefits to owning a dog if a child already has asthma. The National Institutes of Health is funding the human component of the study, and CHF is funding the dog study – a unique and much-needed approach to understanding disease in the real world we share.

“CHF is very excited to fund this groundbreaking study, applying a practical approach to our One Health commitment to benefit the health of both dogs and their people,” said Dr. Diane Brown, CHF CEO. “Importantly, these dogs will be studied in their natural home environments amongst their family members.”

This study will improve understanding of disease in urban-dwelling dogs, an often underserved population. Additionally, it will deepen our understanding of how canine and human health intersect; linking the important role each species has for unlocking aspects of both common and complex health concerns.

To learn more about this grant, or to review our entire grant portfolio, visit akcchf.org/researchportfolio. 🐾



Dr. K. Ann Jeglum, VMD, DACVIM, Receives 2016 Veterinarian of the Year Award

At the 61st Annual Purina® Pro Plan® Show Dogs of the Year Awards event on Saturday, February 13, 2016, at Gotham Hall in New York City, Dr. K. Ann Jeglum received the prestigious Veterinarian of the Year Award presented by Dr. A. Duane Butherus, immediate past chairman of the board of the AKC Canine Health Foundation.

Dr. Jeglum was recognized as a true pioneer in the field of veterinary oncology, and CHF was proud to honor her distinguished career, spanning nearly 40 years as a researcher and clinician.



Dr. K. Ann Jeglum, VMD, DACVIM
Photo Credit: Jennifer Black-Glover

Dr. Jeglum received her VMD from the University of Pennsylvania and completed post-doctoral fellowships at the Animal Medical Center in Manhattan and at the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine.

She was instrumental in starting the medical oncology section of the oncology service at the University of Pennsylvania Veterinary Hospital, and was named a charter diplomate in the subspecialty of oncology in the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine in 1988.

Her groundbreaking work launched the specialty, which has grown to more than 413 diplomates today.

Dr. Jeglum was an associate professor of medical oncology and head of the Oncology Service at University of Pennsylvania veterinary hospital. Additionally, she has held appointments at prestigious research institutes including the National Cancer Institute Fox Chase Cancer Institute, and The Wistar Institute in Philadelphia.

Ever passionate in her study and research of canine cancer genetics, Dr. Jeglum holds patents for novel cancer therapies, is a recognized leader in the field both nationally and internationally, and has published extensively on chemotherapy and immunotherapy in both human and veterinary oncology.

Dr. Jeglum continues to work on the front lines of the veterinary profession, daily treating dogs with cancer in her own practice and research center: Veterinary Oncology Services and Research Center (VOSRC) in West Chester, PA, while also serving the profession.

In addition, Dr. Jeglum has shown dogs for 40 years, beginning with Cocker Spaniels and now German Shorthaired Pointers and Pugs. CHF congratulates Dr. Jeglum and thanks her for all her work to advance canine health! 🐾

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www.akcchf.org/heritagesociety
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Free Educational Webinars!

Join CHF and VetVine for these exciting webinars in our 2016 series:

Fleas, Ticks, What's the Difference?

Dr. Chris Adolph, DVM, MS, DACVM (parasitology), veterinary practitioner and specialist at Zoetis, Inc.

Tick-Borne Infectious Diseases in North America: Clinical and Zoonotic Implications

Dr. Edward B. Breitschwerdt, DVM, DACVIM, professor of medicine and infectious diseases, College of Veterinary Medicine, NCSU

Cancer Immunotherapy: Basic Concepts and Strategies for Improving Treatment Outcomes

Timothy M. Fan, DVM, PhD, DACVIM (oncology), associate professor - department of veterinary clinical medicine, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Registration and on-demand viewing for the webinars can be found at akcCHF.org/vetvine. (Free registration is required.)



Did you miss the webinars in our 2015 series? Watch them on demand and learn more about canine cancer, joint health, itchy dogs and the importance of mental and physical stimulation for dogs. 🐾



CHF Appoints New Board Members and Thanks Outgoing Members

CHF welcomes new board members, elected at a meeting in March:

Sue M. Copeland is an award-winning journalist, former editor of *Horse & Rider Magazine*, and author of more than a dozen books for both the horse and dog worlds. She is a successful conformation competitor and owner of GCH Derby's Toast With Gusto, "Gus," the top-winning Greater Swiss Mountain Dog in breed history (conformation).

Dr. Wayne Jensen, DVM, PhD, MBA, brings more than 30 years of experience in the animal health industry, including veterinary practice, research, product development, business development and research grant funding. Dr. Jensen is professor and interim head in the department of clinical sciences at Colorado State University and owner of a veterinary practice with his wife, Tracey, also a veterinarian. He trains and competes in retriever field trials and hunt tests.

In addition to the newly elected members, Dr. J. Charles Garvin, MD was elected as the chairman of the board. Dr. Garvin is an active ophthalmic surgeon and has been president of a 72-physician medical practice for 25 years. Dr. Garvin has been closely associated with Dalmatians since the 1960s, having served as president of the Dalmatian Club of America (DCA) multiple times, as well as a member of their board for nearly 35 years. A life member of DCA, Central Ohio Kennel Club and Marion Ohio Kennel Club, Dr. Garvin has been an AKC Delegate since 1990 and currently serves as president of the DCA Foundation and Marion Ohio Kennel Club. He is also a member of the American Kennel Club Board of Directors.

"I am excited to take on this challenge of following those who have led this organization so successfully these past two decades. Working together with the board, staff, donors and volunteers, we have the opportunity to expand the reputation, engagement and influence of the AKC Canine Health Foundation throughout the canine world," said Dr. Garvin.

Dr. Garvin replaces Dr. A. Duane Butherus who served as chairman of the CHF Board from 2013 - 2016. Completing their terms were Steven D. Gladstone, JD, and Thomas Powers.

"We are grateful to Steve and Tom for their many years of service on the CHF Board," said Dr. Diane Brown, CHF CEO. "We also appreciate Duane's three years of leadership as chairman of the board. All three of these individuals have served CHF tirelessly, and we thank them for the work they have done to promote canine health." 🐾



Drs. A. Duane Butherus & J. Charles Garvin



Nestlé Purina PetCare Company Supports Healthy Dogs with \$220,000 Donation to CHF

The AKC Canine Health Foundation (CHF) is pleased to announce that more than \$220,000 has been donated by Nestlé Purina PetCare Company to support canine health through the Purina Parent Club Partnership (PPCP) Program.

“The long-standing partnership between Nestlé Purina PetCare and the AKC Canine Health Foundation is a perfect match as we are both passionately committed to the mission of helping dogs live longer, happier lives,” said Ann Viklund, director of conformation for the Breeder/Enthusiast Group at Nestlé Purina PetCare and a member of the CHF Board of Directors.

More than 190 national parent breed clubs participated in the PPCP Program in 2015, resulting in a contribution of \$220,088 to CHF. The donation to CHF represents half of the total 2015 PPCP earnings. An equal donation is shared among the participating parent clubs.

Established in 2002, the PPCP Program enables Purina Pro Club members who participate in the program to designate a breed of dog and submit weight circles (similar to proofs of purchase) from qualifying Purina brand dog foods. An annual donation based on the value of the submitted weight circles is split equally between the national parent clubs’ Donor Advised Funds at CHF to support canine health research, and the parent clubs for education, research and rescue efforts.

“ Since 1997, Nestlé Purina PetCare Company has invested nearly \$12 million in the health of dogs through CHF by supporting canine health research to benefit all dogs.”

The PPCP Program has raised more than \$3.07 million for canine health research in important areas such as cancer, epilepsy, cruciate ligament rupture, bloat, exercise-induced collapse, tick-borne disease and more. The research made possible through the PPCP Program impacts not only the health of specific breeds, but also translates to veterinary and human health more broadly. For example, in 2015, CHF helped fund research resulting in



Dr. Diane Brown, Ann Viklund & Dr. A. Duane Butherus

an important new publication that adds to a growing body of evidence to substantiate the genetic and prognostic similarities between human and canine cancer.

Also in 2015, CHF awarded a continuation grant to the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine to complete a long-term medical surveillance study that has, for the past 14 years, monitored the health and behavior of search and rescue dogs deployed following the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. Results from this canine study will be important to compare to health studies on the human first responders. Additional research is ongoing across the spectrum of important canine health issues. (Read more about this grant on page 6.)

Support for these important areas of canine health research is made possible because of the partnership between CHF, Nestlé Purina PetCare and the parent clubs that participate in the PPCP Program.

In addition to PPCP funds, Nestlé Purina also supports the



CHF mission with an annual corporate gift of \$150,000. Since 1997, Nestlé Purina PetCare Company has invested nearly \$12 million in the health of dogs through CHF by supporting canine health research to benefit all dogs.

“The AKC Canine Health Foundation values the partnership we have with Purina,” said Dr. Diane Brown, CHF CEO. “The support we receive goes far beyond the dollar value. Each member of their team truly invests in our shared vision for the well-being of all dogs. With this investment from Purina, we are able to extend our outreach to improve the health of dogs and their human companions.”🐾



In Memoriam: Monique Arrington

This past February, Monique Arrington, a 17+ year staff member of the American Kennel Club (AKC), passed away suddenly. As a senior event operations representative at the AKC, Monique worked closely with more than 700 clubs to help process event applications and judge panels. According to Alan Slay, director of event programs at AKC, “Monique served the largest number of clubs in the department and she was an informal leader for those she worked with.”

When Sherry Anderson, the treasurer of the Sooner State Kennel Club, learned of Monique’s passing, she knew the club wanted to do something special in her honor, “The email about Monique’s passing came into my mailbox the day we were having a board and general meeting. That night, the club membership voted to donate \$500 to the AKC Canine Health Foundation

in Monique’s memory. We know she was a huge advocate of this foundation.”

Mr. Slay and Tabitha Sheppard, manager of events planning, presented CHF with the check on behalf of the Sooner State Kennel Club.



Tabitha Sheppard, Samantha Wright (with Felton) and Alan Slay

“We are grateful to the Sooner State Kennel Club for this generous donation in memory of Monique,” said Dr. Diane Brown, CHF CEO. “This donation honors Monique, and at the same time, it helps make a positive impact on the health of dogs.”

“Monique was a very special lady who we had the pleasure of working with for over 10 years. She was always gracious and kind no matter the question or need for our shows. She will be missed,” said Dr. Carmen Herbel Spears, Sooner State Kennel Club Show chair. 🐾



Collaboration Advances Canine Reproductive Health

In 2016, the American Kennel Club (AKC), the AKC Canine Health Foundation (CHF) and the Theriogenology Foundation teamed up to support training the next generation in the field of small animal theriogenology, or reproductive medicine. CHF is proud to be administering these grants with four US veterinary schools: Auburn University, Ohio State University, North Carolina State University and the University of Pennsylvania. These residencies will provide specialty training in reproductive medicine and surgery, as well as all aspects of clinical practice and research related to male and female reproduction, obstetrics and neonatology.

Prior to this new collaboration, the AKC and the Theriogenology Foundation joined resources in 2014 to fund theriogenology residency programs at the veterinary colleges of the University of California-Davis, Auburn University and the University of Pennsylvania.

Dr. Andrea Hesser, DVM, was the recipient of the theriogenology residency at UC Davis in 2014. Dr. Hesser received her DVM degree from Oklahoma State University. While completing her DVM, through a scholarship from the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA) and CHF, she attended CHF’s National Parent Club Canine Health Conference, a biennial educational event sponsored by Nestlé Purina PetCare Company. This experience helped foster her interest in canine reproductive health. Before being selected for the two-year residency program at UC Davis, Dr. Hesser was a private veterinary practitioner in Overland Park, Kansas.

During Dr. Hesser’s residency, she has been a member of the research team on two CHF-funded grants led by co-investigators and veterinary theriogenologists Dr. Stuart Meyers, DVM, PhD, DACT and Dr. Bruce Christensen, DVM, MS, DACT: Grants O2124-A: “Determining the Characteristics of Sperm That Accurately Predict Fertility of Stud Dogs,” and O2192-A: “Advanced Semen Analysis in Labrador Retrievers.”

This research team has worked with Guide Dogs for the Blind, Inc., and Dr. Hesser has collected and evaluated the semen of this population of Labrador Retriever stud dogs ranging in age from 18 months to 10 years. All of the active breeding Labradors had semen collected and testing performed to assess both traditional measures of sperm health, such as motility and morphology, and novel parameters, including sperm chromatin structure, mitochondrial DNA, oxygen free radicals and lipid

(continued on page 12)

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membrane tests. To mimic the real-world situation for dog breeding, semen was evaluated for these parameters in a fresh and chilled (48h) state, and frozen semen samples were stored for future analysis.

Preliminary findings indicate senior dogs (those older than seven years) had lower percent normal sperm morphology compared to dogs younger than seven years old, and velocity of motility decreased with increasing age. Despite these “abnormal” findings, the dogs maintained similar fertility (conception rates and average litter size) compared with the younger dogs. Complete analysis is underway, and the investigators expect to publish their findings later this year.

“This study has been beneficial in further developing my interest and expanding my knowledge in canine semen evaluation. I am very interested to see the effects of the freeze process on sperm from the dogs we collected for this project,” said Dr. Hesser. “Use of frozen semen is increasing in the canine breeding world. I look forward to gaining a better understanding of outcomes, and knowing which methods are more likely to result in higher pregnancy rates.”



Dr. Andrea Hesser, DVM

Much of what researchers extrapolate as “normal” for stud dogs is derived from large studies in other animal species. Through this study, Dr. Hesser and the research team were able to characterize “normal” for a variety of testing methods for canine semen, and hope to associate predicted fertility with test results. In the next phase of the project, the researchers will further investigate subfertile Labrador Retrievers for comparison. This information will allow for comparisons of “normal” to “abnormal” and pinpoint the usefulness of advanced semen evaluation methods to bring greater predictability of fertility rates for frozen and fresh sperm from stud dogs. Furthermore, the research team aims to bring about rational improvement of transported and frozen semen for Labrador Retrievers. These findings will likely benefit all breeds.

During her residency, Dr. Hesser also completed external clinical rotations under Dr. Cheryl Lopate (featured speaker

on the CHF and Zoetis Reproduction Podcasts: “Infertility in the Bitch and Canine Semen Evaluation”) and Dr. Milan Hess, a member of the CHF Scientific Review Committee. Drs. Lopate and Hess are accomplished, board-certified small-animal theriogenologists with thriving practices, a model that Dr. Hesser hopes to emulate in her future practice. She also shared her knowledge of purebred dogs and provided a positive introduction to the show dog world through trips for UC Davis veterinary students to AKC-sponsored dog shows, providing personal insights and explanations to interested veterinary students, and working with the “Canine Breeders Excellence” seminar at UC Davis, which drew nearly 250 dog breeders.

Nearing completion of her residency, Dr. Hesser is preparing to take the certifying examination for the American College of Theriogenologists in summer 2016, and will enter private practice with a focus on reproductive medicine and as a breeder veterinarian.

“The residency program at UC Davis enabled me to learn firsthand from such an interesting and important research project. Canine reproduction has always been my primary interest, since I first encountered the subject in my veterinary education,” said Dr. Hesser. “As an active AKC exhibitor and breeder of purebred dogs, it was second nature to choose canine reproduction as a focus. This project has given the field valuable information about sperm quality in working dogs.”

With program research funding from CHF, and training funds from the AKC, Dr. Hesser is one example of the power of such collaboration, and the opportunity it provides to not only advance our understanding of canine reproductive health, but to ensure that we will continue to have trained experts to meet the future health needs of our dogs. 🐾

Visit akcchf.org/news-events/news/akc-chf-therio-residency.html to read more about this exciting new collaboration between CHF, the AKC and the Theriogenology Foundation.

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